

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

## SMALLEY REPORT RAPS ARCHITECT

# WHO TAKES THE BLAME?



Photo: Jane Heywood

Some details of the results of the independent investigation into the causes of damp on Smalley Road Estate were obtained by Hackney People's Press shortly before we went to press. The estate, just off Stoke Newington Common, was only opened two years ago. Almost immediately some tenants began to have severe problems with damp and some houses became almost uninhabitable. After national press and TV coverage a public meeting was held and the independent investigation announced. The results of this investigation are to be made public in June and then a further meeting will be held to tell tenants what the Council intends to do.

The report will show that the damp problem is caused in no less than four ways. The first is caused by seepage of water from underneath the house through the foundations. More water comes in through the walls, due to the lack of a properly efficient damp course. More water leaks in from the roof and the final problem is condensation from inside the building.

The report will lay blame on three areas. There is a fundamental design fault in buildings of this type which causes problems of dampness. For this the Borough Architects Department must be blamed. It should also be noted that 2,000 of the Smalley estate design have already been built in Hackney and a further 600 are still under construction. Then the building department - the Council's own direct labour force - is also to be blamed for the poor quality work done. Finally, the district

surveyor - a GLC employee, not Hackney Council - is to be blamed for not ensuring that part of the building works reached the correct design specification.

However damaging the report is in its final version, it is likely to be criticised as a whitewash if it does not put the major share of the blame on the Borough Architect, Terry Roberts. His design has already been widely criticised in the architectural press.

The investigators, Building Systems Developments Ltd, have also looked at similar houses of the same design. The most notorious of these are on the Cowper Road estate, also in Stoke Newington, where similar problems were reported in 1978.

Meanwhile, individual tenants continue to fight the Council before the courts. One recent case was won by the tenant when Hackney Council pleaded guilty. The magistrate then gave the

Council six months to carry out the repair work!

Tenants in the worst affected houses are all still living in the same conditions, despite the Council's promise that they would offer people new housing within six weeks. Assistant Chief Housing Officer Bob Young also promised in April that Building Systems Investigation would involve taking one house completely apart - yet all the houses are still occupied.

### MEMORABLE

When the report is published there will be a memorable public meeting when tenants confront Council officers and members about the appalling state of affairs that a brand new estate could have so many design and construction faults. Messrs Roberts and Jarvis, respectively the Borough Architect and Borough Building Manager, last time sent their deputies to face the gunfire. If the report lays the blame at their doors - which our information says it will - then they should be made to answer themselves. Our fearless reporter will be there, armed with his bullet-proof tape recorder. Watch this space!

## COUNCIL DUCKS A NAZI QUESTION

The attempts by an embarrassed Hackney borough Council to move the National Front from their Shoreditch warehouse headquarters, patriotically named "Excalibur House", when the Council's Planning and Highways Committee voted unanimously to serve an enforcement order on the building's occupants. This requires that the building's users cease to use it as a publication and distribution centre and as the offices of the National Front.

Bob Masters, the Council's Planning Chairperson, described the Front's arrival last autumn as being as "welcome as an attack of death watch beetle." The Council leadership was quick to point out that they would do everything within their power to remove the Front. Since then, this attitude has moderated to the remark by Masters that the Planning Committee's decision would have been the same if they had been dealing with the Mothers' Union rather than the National Front.

This kind of remark has characterised the Council leadership's attitude to the whole Excalibur House affair. They have been determined to attempt to evict the Front on strictly planning grounds - and have refused to make a political decision. A special meeting immediately after the Front arrived pledged that the Council would give all "necessary support to the people of Hackney and to the

Trade Union movement in their opposition to the operations of the National Front".

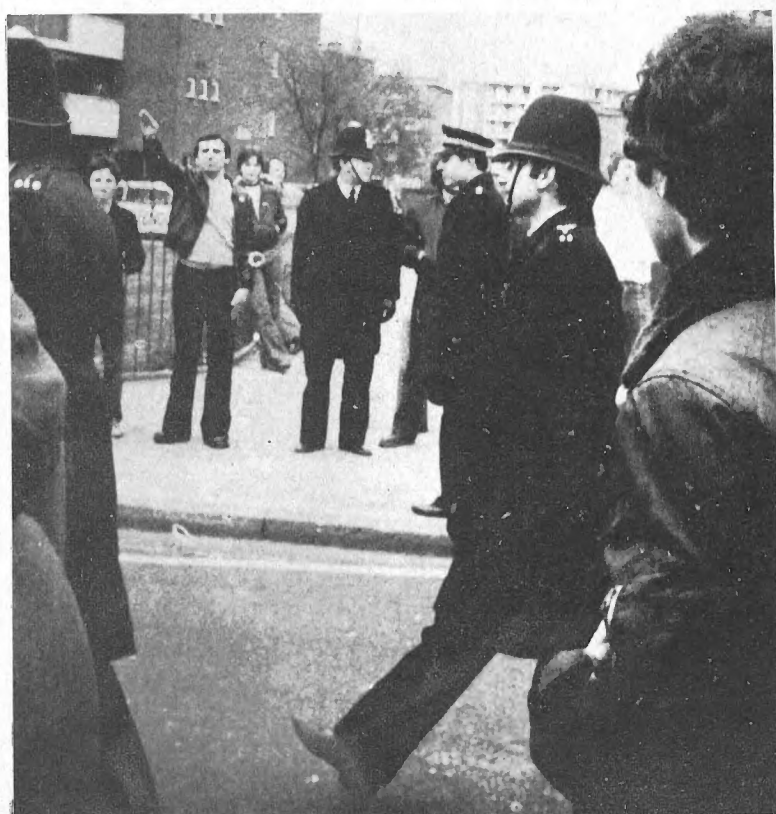
Since these brave words, the Council leadership has kept the public and its own backbenches almost completely uninformed about the progress of any attempt to oust the Front. This led to extraordinary scenes at its April meeting when the leadership refused to allow an emergency motion condemning the death of Hackney resident Blair Peach at the hands of the Special Patrol Group and reiterating total opposition to the Front. The bristly John Kotz, acting leader of the Council, told Patrick Kodikara who was proposing the motion that he would have to wait until the May Planning Committee meeting to see what the Council intended to do.

### CAUTIOUS

However, the Planning Department's report turned out to be hyper-cautious and proposed only to serve enforcement orders on the Front to stop them using Excalibur House as their headquarters. It does not require them to leave the building altogether - which is what the 20,000 people who signed the Anti-Nazi League petition last autumn. And, more seriously, it has nothing to say about the planning application that the Front has made to turn the ground floor into a printing works, beyond stating that it will come before the

continued on p.8

A local fascist gives a Nazi salute during the anti-racist march on Sunday 29 April.





# Letters

## Labour Schools View

Dear Friends

Congratulations on your having devoted a substantial amount of space in your April and May issues to articles on the reorganisation of secondary schools in Hackney. Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party has produced a report on this subject and submitted it to the ILEA as part of the "consultation" exercise. Can I outline some of the points that we make in the report and invite interested readers to write to the Secretary, 5 Stamford Hill, N16 (enclosing a 7p stamp) for a free copy of the report?

Our main point is that we believe, contrary to ILEA, that smaller schools can work, and indeed the falling rolls offer a major opportunity for the resources of schools' staff and school buildings and facilities to be spread more thickly over a declining school population. More resources per pupil are not the complete answer to improving our schools, but they are an essential condition. We must oppose the inevitable pressure to cut back on buildings and staff simply on financial grounds.

Provided a secondary school has a minimum three-form entry we believe it can be made to work. ILEA maintain that larger schools are necessary to provide a wide range of subjects and to employ sufficient specialist teachers. More important, we argue, is the general atmosphere within a school and whether it can meet the individual pupils. For older pupils we urge an extension of the co-operation that already exists to broaden the range of subjects on offer. The idea of taking the older children into sixth form centres or colleges has two strong disadvantages. It would deprive schools of their older pupils and thus be a loss to their community life, and it would constitute yet another disruptive of "sink schools". With this reform we would favour the

ending of parental choice and expecting parents to send their children to the school of their locality.

Another way to integrate schools more with the local community is to make school buildings available for other community purposes. This was discussed by ILEA in 1972 but precious little has been done. A number of needs come break in the school career of the pupil.

A serious problem, however, discussed by Colin Rayden in your previous issue, is the possible rapid growth in the number of pupils attending the voluntary-aided, denominational schools. Like him, we agree that parental preference for these schools is based on poor information and sometimes prejudice. But we argue too that such an attitude results from the very limited freedom that parents have with regard to the education provided for their children. They have a limited freedom to choose schools but hardly any influence over what goes on inside. No wonder they are ill-informed! We believe that local parents should have a greater influence over school management and only when this happens will real pressure be brought to bear to solve the problems to mind: playgroups and nurseries for the under fives; pensioners' clubs; sports facilities in the evenings; extra language classes to teach English to those with a different mother tongue - or to teach foreign languages. To make fuller use of school space would increase the demands on caretaking and cleaning staff and we urge that extra resources be put into these areas.

Smaller neighbourhood schools, integrated with and responsive to the local community offer a major opportunity to meet the needs of Hackney's school children. It must not be lost!

Yours sincerely  
Tony Millwood  
Chairperson Hackney North and Stoke Newington Constituency Labour Party

## State Racism

A lot of attention has been paid to the racism of the NF. However, it is important to realise that racism is an integral part of the British state. Racism as a force cannot be understood and fought until this is realised. The state operates its racism through various forms, but specifically through three Acts, as implemented by the police and the immigration authorities.

At first glance, there might appear to be little connection between a section of the 1824 Vagrancy Act (the Sus law), the 1976 Prevention of Terrorism Act and the 1971 Immigration Act. Yet these laws, which are supposed to control crime, terrorism and immigration, are in reality used extensively to intimidate and suppress specific minority communities. They have basic

factors in common, the most important being that the onus of proof is on the person arrested, not the police.

The PTA and the Immigration Acts give police and immigration authorities powers of arrest and detention against which there is no appeal in the courts. All three Acts are also used to gather low level information. All three Acts are implemented mainly though not exclusively by specialised police units.

East London United Troops Out Movement has arranged a march on Saturday June 16 from Hyde Park at 2.30 pm with the specific demands of smashing state racism and repeal of the Sus law, the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Immigration Act.

Further details from East London UTOM, Box 13, c/o 136 Kingsland High St., E8.

# Accident fuels anti-lorry campaign



The Graham Road campaign against the lorries got a grim reminder of what it is fighting when a 58-year-old man, Alfred Hodgkin, was severely injured by a West German juggernaut lorry in mid May. Just a few days later, two women were lucky to escape injury when a load of timber crashed from another lorry further back along the route in Morning Lane.

Luckily, no one using the row of busy shops was on the stretch of pavement. A new survey carried out by the Graham Road and District Residents' Group shows how the number of such dangerous juggernauts and heavy lorries is increasing.

## Survey

Carried out on May 9, the survey shows an (approximately) 10 per cent increase in heavy traffic compared with a similar survey made in December last year.

Andrew Haig of the residents' group points out that the rise could well be higher than this as the December survey was made on a Monday, (this one was on a Wednesday) when he expects more lorries would be on the road.

The Graham Road tenants have asked the GLC to carry out a full survey for themselves, but predictably this has met with a refusal.

The new Graham Road survey also shows a staggering 40-50 per cent increase in the early morning (5-7 am) period compared with December, rising to about 350 heavy vehicles in an hour.

## Danger

The dangers of heavy traffic, the noise, pollution and damage that they cause in this relatively narrow street, their use of Graham Road as a "rat run" and the general deterioration of the area have

been the active concern of residents for some months now.

The difficulty in obtaining positive improvements has been largely due to the fact that, as the law stands, Hackney Council have no direct control over traffic and the use of the road by juggernauts. It is the GLC who is responsible for this and their line is basically that there is no other route for these lorries, they will not restrict them or impose weight limits, and therefore nothing has happened.

The one thing the GLC does plan to do, which should improve things slightly for local residents, is to resurface the road from Stannard Road to Greenwood Road. The residents' group wanted to see the road resurfaced to cut down on vibration and hence damage to property. While the GLC's motives for resurfacing may be rather different (perhaps to give the lorries a smoother ride?), it is a minor victory for the campaign.

## Lobby

Individual Hackney councillors have been sympathetic to the campaign and the Council could collectively seek to pressurise the GLC. With this aim in mind, the Council meeting on May 23 was lobbied by many of the Graham Road residents, calling for an unequivocal statement of support.

Further active anti-lorry campaigning is planned for June, both by the Graham Road residents' group and by the broader Campaign Against the Lorry Menace. A week of action begins on Sunday June 10, when Friends of the Earth make their contribution to the general transport campaign by holding a bike rally, starting from Trafalgar Square. Other events are planned and the Graham Road group's demonstration will coincide with this week of action.

Further details, including a newsheet, are available from Andrew Haig, 18 Graham Road, E8, tel 249 6232.

# Clissold by-election worries Labour

Howard Pallis, a local solicitor who holds the distinction of being the only Labour candidate defeated in last May's council elections, has the chance of taking up his seat a year late when he stands in a by-election in Clissold Ward on June 21.

This by-election has been caused by the resignation of Robert Dick who is moving away from London.

Although Clissold was held by Labour comfortably in the 1978 elections the local Labour party are slightly worried that a much lower turnout (in 1978 it was 38 per cent - the highest in the borough) and the intervention of a Liberal might make the seat more marginal. They are especially worried because the Communist candidate, Les Skeates, who also ran in 1978 might

just take enough votes away from Labour to let the Tories win. The elections for the European Parliament take place two weeks before, so Clissold ward can expect quite an active dose of election fever in the next month.

People might even begin to think that all this democracy actually gives them some sort of power.



# PIP: the growing community link

Set up as part of the initiative taken to regenerate the declining Inner City areas of England, Hackney People in Partnership is aiming to provide additional opportunities for local voluntary and community groups to contribute to the borough's regeneration.

It is an unlikely mixture of bodies that comprise People in Partnership (PIP). Amongst the original groups there are the United Reform Church and North East Thames Architects' Society; Centreprise and Hackney Association for the Disabled; Hackney Cyclists' Action and City of London Polytechnic. Now added to the 29 founding members are another 29 accepted at the Annual General Meeting on May 14. Amongst these were Hackney People's Press, Hackney Asian Association, Graham Road and District Residents' Group and the Rio Centre (Dalston) Ltd. Party political groups are specifically excluded.

The elections for the partnership working groups and panels which provide the community's "voice" on the various council committees produced some interesting results. There was a definite move towards representatives from the more political organisations at least partly committed to radical changes and away from the worthy church-type groups. This should make PIP more active in pushing the council bureaucracy towards real commitment to public participation, which is what partnership is supposed to encourage.

## Debate

To quote from PIP's Annual Report (1978/79): "The idea for PIP sprang directly from the great debates, in central and local government and in community and voluntary organisations of all kinds, about the best means of restoring

the Inner City areas..."

The recently fallen Labour government envisaged this means to be: "...a co-ordinated and planned attack by all the agencies together - central government, local government and the community itself, both directly and through the voluntary organisations which already exist. Such planned effort would need to be supplemented by extra financial support. Community involvement was a main theme."

This was the philosophy out of which PIP has materialised. Hackney Borough Council has committed itself to supporting partnership and have provided some of the funds for two full-time PIP workers and premises in the old Shoreditch Town Hall, which PIP will be moving to shortly.

## Influence

PIP hopes that its existence will enable non-statutory (those not set up by government or local authorities) to have a more effective voice in influencing the policies of Hackney Council, ILEA, GLC, and the Area Health Authority with regard to solving Inner City area problems. It also hopes to support voluntary groups in their own efforts towards Inner City regeneration. Under the Hackney/Islington Partnership Urban Programme, £16 million will be available in 1980/1. Voluntary bodies within PIP will be competing with statutory sector bodies for these funds (which are liable to alteration at the time of going to press by the new government).

However, only a small proportion will go to the non-statutory sector, but PIP does claim that it has already won a greater amount for the sector than originally anticipated. For the 1979/80 financial year, Hackney Council initially allocated £315,000 for vol-

untary bodies in Hackney. Applications for this money totalled £2.5 millions, far more than what was available. However, money was obtained from extra sources, such as ILEA, the Manpower Services Commission and other parts of the Council's budget, and the total finally allocated to non-statutory organisations for this year is believed to be at least £600,000.

## Allocation

The process of allocating money is long and bureaucratic, requiring approval at local level and by the Department of Environment. Consequently, the deadline for applications for funding in 1980/1 is already drawing near. (The closing date is July 31, and notification of intended applications should be received by June 30.)

Any local voluntary organisations or community groups can apply, and those looking to improve the physical environment, or proposing schemes relating to the economy and employment are likely to be most successful.

Inner City regeneration is a mammoth task, and inevitably a slow and difficult one in an area of Hackney's nature. People in Partnership are hoping to contribute as active groups with something to offer the borough, as best they can, and this co-operative organisation should be encouraged and helped by anyone wishing to see social improvement locally. Let's hope then that the current Tory government's laissez-faire approach does not allow such initiatives to be starved of support.

Those wishing to apply for funds for 1980/81 should contact Martin Bidmead, Partnership Office, 1-11 Hoxton St, N1, tel 739 7600 ext 320. Also they should contact Hackney People in Partnership, c/o Manor Road, N16, tel 802 7949.

# Right rises in CUT

CUT, the campaign against the rates increases introduced in April, has been active recently in Hackney and other Inner London boroughs. CUT stands for Chartered Union of Taxpayers and information has recently surfaced on the real nature of the campaign.

While the campaign has been evident amongst local small shops and businesses it is mainly instigated by those who do not live in Hackney, but have a vested interest in small businesses and sweatshops. Owners of such private enterprises employ relatively few people and take out of the borough, in profits, far more than they put into it.

CUT is backed up by some quite well known figures who just happen to be active in such right-wing groups as the Freedom Association (formerly known as the National Association of Freedom). "Time Out" reported last month (no 474) that patrons of CUT include Sir James Goldsmith, a regular contributor to "Free Nation", the

Freedom Association's paper, Alun Davies, Financial Director of Rio Tinto Zinc and John Lyle, chairman of that well-known supporter of free enterprise, Tate and Lyle, who also advertise in Free Nation.

Another of CUT's mentors is Howard Jarvis, who was one of the prime backers of California's "Proposition 13". This was the successful proposal to drastically cut taxes and slash social and public services in California. CUT and the Freedom Association sponsored Jarvis on a six-day tour of Britain last December.

Rate rises clearly hit those who own businesses harder than most Hackney residents. The services that rate rises provide are needed by Hackney's residents and not by people who probably do not even live in the borough and own local shops whose profits are their main concern. Little surprise, then, that such cries of anguish are being released from those who stand to lose most.



June is definitely the month for cyclists! On June 10, all local cyclists are invited to take picnic lunches to Clissold Park (corner of Church St and Green Lanes), before joining a ride to Trafalgar Square via Upper St at 1 pm.

On the following Sunday, June 17, there will be a

sponsored bike ride for "A Woman's Place" and the Women's Liberation Newsletter. Cyclists will leave "A Woman's Place", which is at William IV St, just off Trafalgar Square and ride via London Fields to Epping Forest (and back!). If you want to know more, please ring 254 3082.

# ROYAL TREAT FOR LOCAL SOCIALISTS

The leaders of Hackney Council, feared up and down the land for their socialist fervour and devotion to the revolutionary cause, have decided this year to accept Her Majesty the Queen's gracious invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party later this summer. This contrasts with last year's decision by the Labour group to refuse the royal command (thus risking immediate incarceration in the Tower of London). Why the difference?

The answer lies in the mayor. Last year, the mayor, as you could hardly fail to have noticed due to his constant exposure in the Hackney Gazette, was Sam Cohen who was, ironically, the only member of the Broad Left group who got elected to any position on the Council or any of its committees.

Sam Cohen has been a popular mayor with his staff, and has actually worked at what is usually regarded as a pretty honorary position. He goes to the Town Hall most days and uses the mayor's parlour as an office. This contrasts with the attitude of some recent mayors, one of whom the chauffeurs were always moving to drive home when he was completely plastered.

## UNPOPULAR

The upshot of this is that Sam is, of course, highly unpopular with Senior Council officials and the old guard leadership, especially John Kotz, who constantly questioned his rulings in Council meetings and said several times that he couldn't wait until May, when Sam would be leaving the job.

This meant last year that there was no question that the leadership was going to recommend that the Council accept the Queen's very kind offer of a cup of tea and a warm smoked salmon sandwich. They wouldn't have wanted Sam stealing the show with his chain of office. But this year it's different.

The mayorship is firmly back in the hands of the old guard, in the person of Betty Blomfield and so our leaders are all going along to receive Her Majesty's largesse. Such are principles!

The elections for this year's Council committee positions have raised one or two interesting issues. The Broad Left has abandoned its hardline position of only accepting direct elections by all the Labour group and three people who have been associated with the Broad

Left have now taken office. Richard Gee stays in the vice-chair of Planning and Highways, which he took over after the death of John Hill in January. Anthony Kendall becomes the vice-chairperson of Housing Development and Jim Cannon has been appointed chairperson of the Rent Arrears Committee, which was criticised earlier this year for insensitivity in the way it handled tenants who fell behind with their rents.

## LEADERSHIP

And the leadership? Martin Ottolangui is still too ill to attend council meetings or take any active role at all. Yet he was reelected leader by the group. The answer probably lies in the fact that John Kotz, his deputy, does not want to

give up the chair of the Administration Committee, which he would have to if he took over as leader. In Ottolangui's absence he also chairs the Policy Committee, all of which makes him a very powerful man - as acting leader and chair of the two most important committees on the council. The taste of power is sweet! What a shame he didn't get the Labour nomination for the safe European MP seat of East London. Then he would have had to resign!

The only other appointment of note is that Miles Leggett, whose name has cropped up in these pages more than once, has been demoted from his vice-chair of the Social Services Committee. This, of course, has nothing to do with any embarrassment he might have caused the leadership in the last year.



# SPG-AUTHORITY TO MURDER

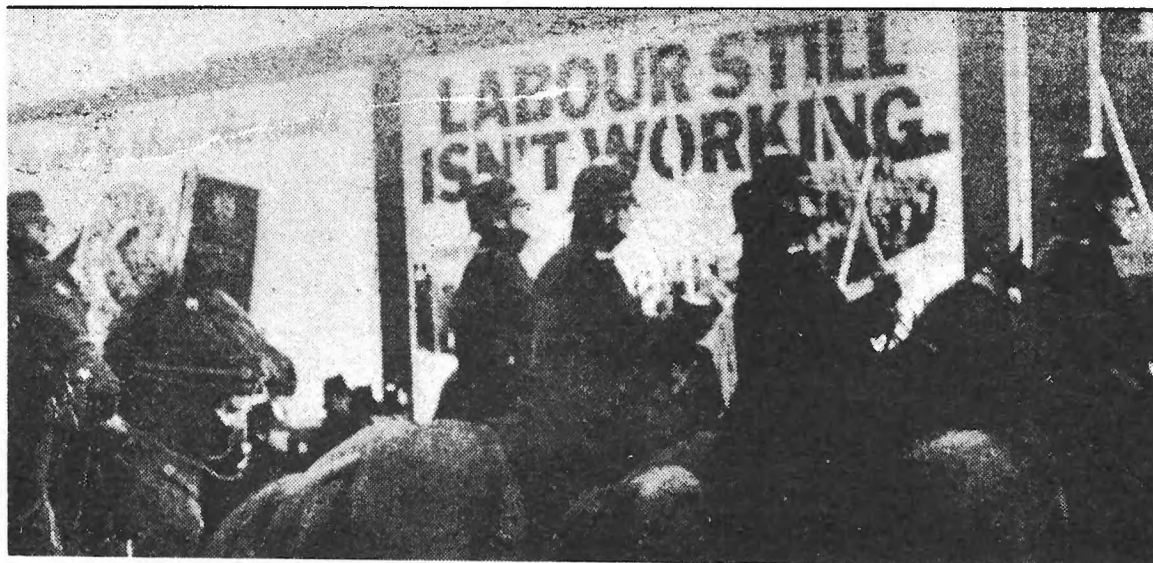
## Who should answer for Southall?

Many local people will have known Blair Peach, the teacher who was killed on his way home from the anti-fascist demonstration in Southall on April 23. He lived in Hackney and taught for the last 10 years at the Phoenix School for Delicate Children in Bow. In view of the sensationalist and biased reporting of the Southall events in the national media - The Daily Mirror reporter had phoned back his story within 10 minutes of arriving at Southall - it is important to try to disentangle the complicated set of circumstances which produced the tragic consequences it did. The newspapers will not try to understand what happened, for within two days after Blair's murder they had dropped the issue completely and returned to their staple political diet of tea-break disputes and Japanese motor industry export figures.

For the wide labour movement, though, (which for me personally does not include the Parliamentary Labour Party), Southall already should have the political significance of Peterloo, or the Free Speech demonstrations of 1887 in Trafalgar Square, or the Women's Suffrage clashes of 1912, or Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1971. In all of these demonstrations, a powerful state used excessive force to impose a physical solution to issues for which it could not find - or did not want to find - a political solution. In all those demonstrations, unarmed protestors were killed by the army or the police. The political issue today concerns the right of an avowedly fascist party to hold provocative rallies (for no one could call them "public meetings") and expect full protection from the state. The mortal threat which racism, cultivated and propagated by the National Front, poses to the socialist movement is pressing and critical. Two hundred years of political struggle and sacrifice to try to create a decent society of equality, mutual respect and commonwealth, could well end up in the terminus of a monolithic corporate state unless the wide socialist and labour movement grasps the nettle of racism and commits itself to calling for a ban on racist organisations and a redrawing of the vision of British socialism - too ethnocentric and insular in the past - to one of multi-racialism and internationalism. There is no way forward other than on that basis.

### WALKING AWAY

Blair was not killed in a melee of violence and counter-violence outside Southall Town Hall. He was deliberately killed whilst walking away from the demonstration in a small residential street. What happened was that two vans belonging to the Special



The continuity of police responses to radical demonstrations can be seen by comparing the remarkable similarity between the death of Blair Peach in Southall, and that of Alfred Linnell who was killed following a radical Free Speech demonstration in Trafalgar Square in 1887. Linnell was also on his way home from the demonstration when a company of mounted police rode into the dispersing crowd in a display of strength and he was trampled underfoot by a police horse. This death was, to quote a historian, "a considerable embarrassment to the police and they made several attempts to explain it away and even hush it up. At the inquest into the death contradictory evidence caused the coroner to call for a second post mortem. This had the effect of delaying the public funeral..." Linnell was buried in Bow Cemetery following an enormous funeral procession through the East End. William Morris commented at the time that the government were intent on making London for the working class "nothing more than a prison." Blair is also to be buried at Bow and it is to be hoped once again that the funeral will be attended by as many people as possible as a profound display of mourning for his unnecessary and brutal death.

Top photo shows mounted police attacking demonstrators at Southall in 1979. Bottom engraving shows mounted police attacking demonstrators in Trafalgar Square in 1887.

Patrol Group arrived in Orchard Street and out poured 24 heavily-geared policemen who then proceeded to lay into the straggling crowd of people going home. Eyewitness accounts say that Blair was trapped against the wall and viciously hit about the head with a truncheon fracturing his skull, from which he died later that evening. This was not a case of policemen defending themselves against violence, it was the strong state putting the boot in, in an attempt to terrorise political opposition. No different from Czechoslovakia, no different from Argentina.

The Special Patrol Group are clearly learning fast. Set up eight years ago, they have successfully smashed their way through picket lines of dockers, printing workers, bakery workers, a

march of the unemployed, and a number of black community projects have been raided by them. Their strong-arm tactics are self-confirming: displays of force elicit aggressive responses. Thus begins a spiral of mounting force and armourey.

### SOLIDARITY

James Callaghan, as Prime Minister, blamed the events at Southall on "outsiders" coming in to stir up trouble. A clever police information unit had fed journalists during the day with false stories of how many of the people arrested had come from other parts of London - or beyond. In fact, most of those arrested came from Southall and many of them were local Asians. Those

who came from outside came in an expression of solidarity, a word clearly not in Callaghan's vocabulary, although it does have a rather honourable place in the history of working class and socialist struggles. When he does finally retire to his large Sussex farm, bought with the proceeds of a lifetime's work in the Labour movement, he might well spare a few hours reading some decent history books. Worse, though, was that Blair, apart from coming from outside Southall on that terrible day, wasn't even born in this country! He was an outsider in every sense of the word. Yet he gave 10 years wonderful work at Phoenix School for which many pupils and their parents will be grateful, for he was an exceptional teacher of great kindness and patience.

The National Front don't think people should change countries. Everybody should stay where they are.

The National Front want to reverse the film of history. Ships will sail backwards out of Britain's harbours, aeroplanes will take off backwards from Heathrow Airport, back to India, the West Indies, Cyprus and all will be well. But you can't be selective in rewinding history - it all has to go backwards. America has to be depopulated and left to the Indians, Africa restored with all its wealth to the many black cultures who originally lived there, Australia returned to the Aborigines and so on. It's so sadly stupid. All problems in this world now are international problems and require international solutions - political solutions, socialist solutions. No individual country could survive for more than a matter of days if it had to survive on its own resources. Blair knew this and in the end gave his life for the spirit of internationalism.

### MEMORIAL

There are many things people can do to move forward on from this tragedy. The three Labour MPs for Hackney need to be told by as many people as possible that they must insist on a full public inquiry into the police behaviour at Southall and particularly into the circumstances surrounding Blair's death. Petition forms calling for this demand are available from Centerprise and as many signatures collected as possible locally. Branches of trade unions and political parties should be asked to pass resolutions calling for this inquiry and sent to the appropriate policy-making body of the organisation. There is now a Blair Peach Memorial Fund, c/o Langdon Park School, Byron Street, London E14, whose aims are to continue the struggle against racism with which Blair was associated, as well as providing financial support for his dependents. Donations and collections have been pouring in so far, and this fund is a long-term project. The Hackney Labour and Trades Club have organised a magnificent collection.

None of this, though, will bring Blair back. We have lost a rather magical person: self-deprecating, witty, clownish, phenomenally energetic in politics and life. Hackney should honour Blair Peach as someone who came from another country and gave so much of himself to local life, reminding us of how stupid and artificial are the boundaries of nationality and race, and that the important issue is not where people have come from, but where they are going that matters the most.

KW



# Hackney <sup>2p</sup> Gasbag

May 79

## JUNE

This issue of the HACKNEY GASBAG was written, photographed, edited, laid out and pasted up by: Tracey Apicella, Paul Bellem, Roland Black, Chris Bryant, Luke Costello, Lee James, Davin Jeyes, Sharon O'Connor, Dean Smith, Delroy Smith and Janet Smith.

## CAPITAL RADIO 194

### AN OUTING TO CAPITAL RADIO

The people from the HPP Hackney Gasbag were there to interview the people of Capital Radio.

First of all, we signed our names in the book and then we were told to sit down and wait for Tim to come.

As we were waiting we began to practice our speech. When Tim came down he told us that he's secretary would come and show us around the building.

### CONTROL ROOM

The first part of the building we went to was the Telephone Control Room, and then we went into the Master Control Room.

After that we went into the studio where we could see Michael Aspel speaking on the radio. He said on the radio: "We've got a lot of mild mannered Clark Kents here from the Hackney Gasbag which is a junior newspaper. All the journalists are in there with their eye shields and shirt protectors on, blowing raspberries as all journalists do. Hello there fellas and girls, nice to see you."



We've got a lot of mild mannered Clark Kents here from the HACKNEY GASBAG!

MIKE ASPEL

The first questions that we asked were, Why are there more adverts than records? and the reply came, Well, there aren't more adverts than records, there are usually nine minutes of advertising in every hour.

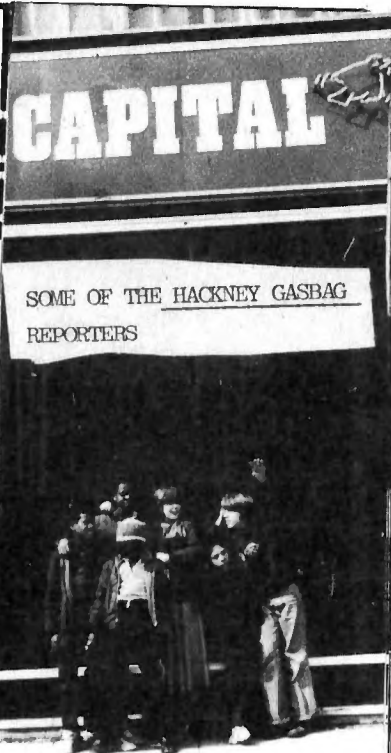
The second question was, What qualifications do you need to become an engineer? You need O levels in maths and physics as well as things like English, but if you wanted to get in the business you could start off as a Tea boy or possibly as a secretary.

All the people that we interviewed said that they all enjoyed their jobs very much. They said that the people are wonderful to work with. They

also said that they hardly ever get bored unless they are doing night shift. When we had nearly finished interviewing the Engineer we went to the place where they kept most of the records and tapes.

Then Dean asked the lady in the record library that if somebody phoned up and asked for a dedication how come that you find the record so quick. They said that they usually get them out before the programme starts.

They told us that sometimes if they need something urgently they would pick it out and take it down to them.



We asked if they had all the records. They said that they haven't got all of them but they have got all the top twenty. Then we asked if they had Silly games, and they said yes they have.

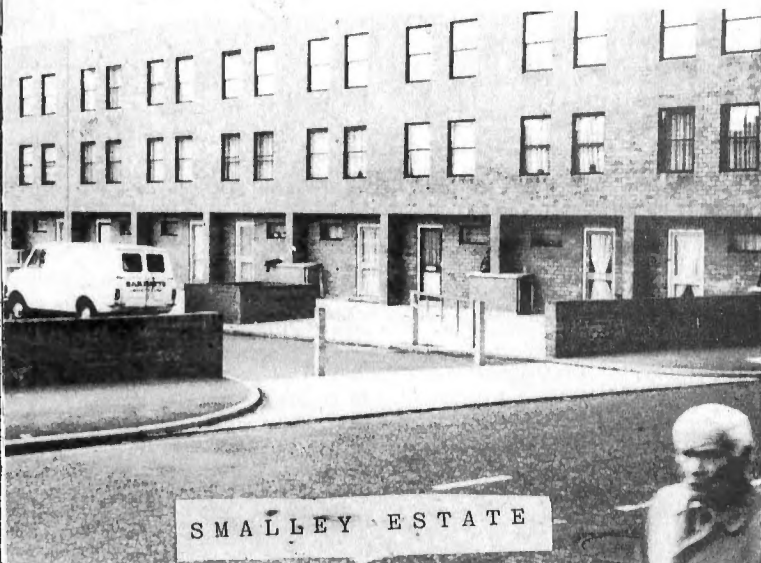
Our guide was Fiona. She told us that she enjoyed her job very much and she wouldn't swap it for anything.

Our interview is nearly over we just have to interview one more person and that is Tim O'Mara.

### PROFITS

He said, "We make £2 million profits a year and it all goes to a thing called secondary rental in which other ILR stations which don't make a lot of money - we give our profits to them, believe it or not."

\*\*\*\*\*



## housing DISASTER! ON SMALLEY ESTATE

### SURVEY

We are doing a survey on behalf of the HPP Hackney Gasbag from Centerprise.

The first tenants we interviewed were Mr and Mrs Apicella of 5 Cottage Walk.

They strongly complained about the condensation all over the house and the dampness up the front of the house. They also said that the area was nice to live in and the people are very sociable.

The house is a council house and it is owned by Hackney Borough Council, and they have been living there just under two years.

All the other tenants we interviewed gave the same replies as the other tenant, and they said "the condition is so bad that we have to be moved out."

These findings received wide publicity - in the Hackney Gazette, the Hackney Gasbag, on Thames at Six, and in the national press.

This has led to the setting up of an independent investigation into the structure of the estate, costing £4,500. Up to 2,000 homes in Hackney are affected with similar problems, but plans for a further 600 houses of the same design won't be scrapped due to the severe housing needs in Hackney.

### HOMES

Over a third of the 277 homes were found to suffer from dampness or condensation, some of them to the extent of making parts uninhabitable.

One of the officers, Dave Smith, found one of the houses unfit for human habitation. Others were found to be "statutory nuisances".



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<b>PAGE 4</b>	<b>PHOTO STORY</b>





# A TRIP TO THE



## FILM REVIEW



### RETURN FROM WITCH MOUNTAIN

I thought it was very good. The story was good, and the effects were especially good. I liked the bit where the bus went up and the car went under the bus. Another good bit was when they went over a fence. The best bit of all was the flying saucer because it was so real.

Two of the people in the film were Bette Davis and Christopher Lee. I thought they were very good actors.

#### Pete's Dragon

A long time ago, in a faraway land, a boy called Pete had a dragon called Eliot. They found a big city and had to hide from some tramps who were trying to catch them. The dragon was invisible and he helped Pete by wagging his tail and making the tramps fall into the mud.

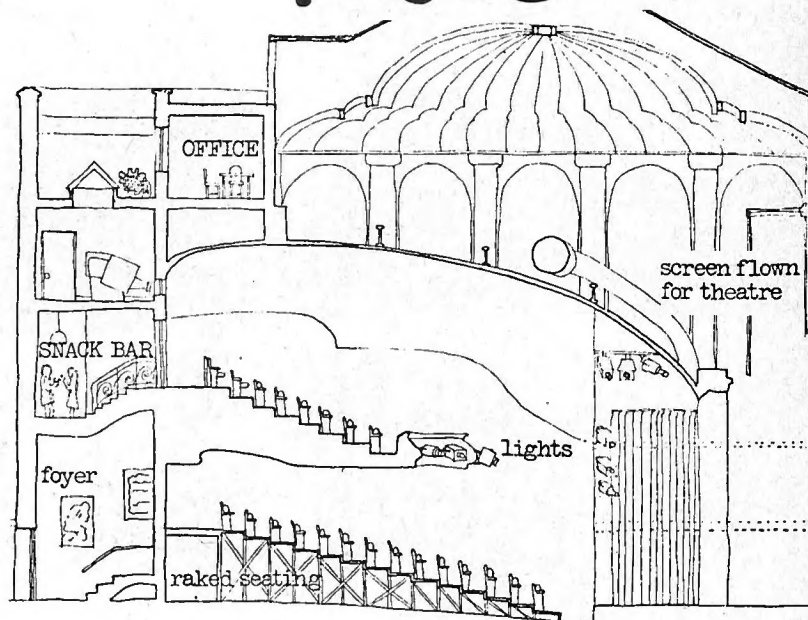
Eliot helps Pete a lot but in the end Eliot has got to go away to help somebody else.

Pete's dragon is a very good film, and it serves the tramps right for being nasty.

On the 18th of April two reporters from the Gasbag went to interview two of the people who work in the Rio cinema. But first we got our tape recorder and we made up some questions. When we had made up some questions we went over to the Rio.

The first person we interviewed was the projectionist and he gave us some really good answers. He liked his job and has been working at jobs in the film industry for 25 years, and in fact started out at the Rio. He told us that the Rio was originally called the Kingsland Empire.

After we had interviewed him we interviewed the manageress. She was very helpful and the interview went very well. She told us about the Rio and that it was a charity cinema. I asked her if she thought the Rio would be successful? She said that it might be. They had put in one grant application but this had been turned down, so they will have to get the money they need to convert the Rio by some other means.



The architect has drawn the design for the cinema (which is shown here) and there are new things in it. These include raked seating and a new snack bar. Their grant for money has been turned down but they still hope to make these changes.

There are going to be many new films at the

Rio, and the workers there want the whole community to use the Rio. There will still be films there but also music and maybe theatre groups too.

As you know now the Rio is a charity cinema, and they have started a project.



## LUCKY LUKE AND THE STAGE COACH

### LUCKY LUKE AND THE STAGE-COACH



This is Lucky Luke. The manager of a ranch has asked him to come to Wells Fargo and Co. When Lucky Luke reached the ranch, a man at the counter told him how to reach the manager.

"Ah, Lucky Luke!" said the manager, "I want you to escort a coach carrying a box of gold."

Then a big fat man arrived. The manager said; "This is Hank, the

company's best whip (The whip is what we call the driver of the stagecoach).



HANK

The stagecoach will go from San Francisco to Salt Lake City. Here's the coach!" said the manager.

It was a stagecoach that carries passengers. "You mean it. Where are the passengers going to be?" said the manager.

The first passenger is Oliver Flimsy.

The second passenger is John Beeks and the last passenger is Adam Robins.

The next day Lucky Luke set off for San Francisco to Salt Lake City.

When Lucky Luke got there, he had a bet with Adam Robins that the horse



OLIVER FLIMSY

in the front was the one called Hurricane. Lucky Luke won the bet.

On the way to Salt Lake City, Lucky Luke said: "Let's stop here for a

rest." I'm going to do a bit of hunting."

When Lucky Luke went, a gang of bandits came. Just as they were going to take the box of gold, Lucky Luke heard the bandits, and came to the stagecoach.

When the bandits saw him, they started to gallop off on their horses.

When they got to Salt Lake City, the man who was waiting for the stagecoach said:

"Thanks, Lucky Luke, we may be needing you again."

Then Lucky Luke rode into the sunset.



# MORE NURSERIES

## MORE NURSERIES!

ME, that is Paul Bellenie and Lee James looked in the A-Z, went to Broadway Market Nursery, and this is what one of the helpers said: "Many of the parents who came on holiday are single parent families,

often living in deplorable housing conditions and having to cope with all the stress. This causes them to bring their children here and we help look after them."

This picture was specially done to prove a point - to show that we need more nurseries.



## ARCHERY

Archery is a great sport if you do it right. It is enjoyed all over the world by men, boys, girls and women.

Their competitions are held worldwide from Wales to Australia.

If you would like to do it, you can do it at the Finsbury Leisure Centre. You have to pay 30p for a day.

## JOKES

What do you call Dracula

A pain in the neck.

What did the barperson

say when the ghost asked for a drink?

Sorry, we don't serve spirits.

Did you hear about the person who bought a paper shop? It blew away.

What's big, grey and lights up?

An embarrassed elephant.

What do you call an elephant with a driver?

A trunk and driver.

What falls on water without getting wet?

A shadow.

Did you hear about the man who went shoplifting?

He was found dead under Tesco's.

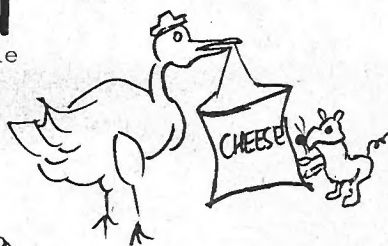
What is purple and flies in space?  
Planet of the grapes.

What lives in a pea pod and is good at Kung-Fu?  
Bruce Pea.

There was a bus and there wasn't a single person in it. How come?  
They were all married people.

What does Dracula get all his jokes from?  
His Crypt writer.

# Gasbag Stories



## The Duck and the Mouse.

There was once a duck who got some cheese for Mr Mouse every morning. One morning Mrs Duck went to Mr Mouse's house and said "I am going to get you some strong cheese today, but, but, but..." "But nothing!" and she went off to the shops. When Mrs Duck came back, Mr Mouse said: "I didn't want any cheese today, because Miss Clark got me a pound of cheese last night. So if you give me it for tomorrow, I won't need any tomorrow."

So Mrs Duck gave Mouse the cheese.

THE END.

DID YOU KNOW that elephants haven't got a memory?

DID YOU KNOW that a man shaves 36 feet of hair off his chin in a lifespan?

DID YOU KNOW that a turtle and a tortoise and a terrapin have all got the same size brain?

DID YOU KNOW that sharks sleep?

IF YOU DON'T believe it, go to any book shop and ask for a book called "IT'S CRAZY BUT IT'S TRUE".

These young people. They will never learn.



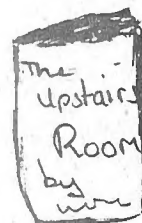
## The Fight

Jim went to the club. He played bar football. Some kid came up to him and said: "You beat up my brother and you wait till you get out of here - I'm going to kick your head in!" When he got out, he ran for his life, but when he got round the corner, Sid was waiting for him, so he ran the other way, but then two boys came out of the alley. Then they started to close in on him. One of them asked what they were going to do to him. "You're going to find out!" said the other. Now just as they were going to start, the pigs pulled up. Jim told him all about it, then they took him home.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Tips by  
Jean Milloy

Find Debbie.  
The Upstairs Room.  
Come to Mecca.  
A Shiver of Spooks.  
That Crazy April.



# ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.



Did you know about ARSENAL  
Did you know that Arsenal F.C. was founded in the year 1886.

That they have won the League Championship eight times, in the years 1931, 1934, 1935, 1938, 1948, 1953, and 1971. Arsenal were runners-up in the league championship three times in the years 1926, 1932, and 1973. They have won the F.A. Cup four times, in the years 1930, 1936 and 1950 and 1971. Arsenal have been runners up for the F.A. Cup five times, in the years 1927, 1932, 1952, 1972, and 1978.

They have never won the League Cup, but they have been runners up twice, in the years 1968 and 1969.

Arsenal have won the F.A. Charity Shield seven times, in the years 1930, 1931, 1932, 1934, 1938, 1948 and 1953.

# HACKNEY GASWORD

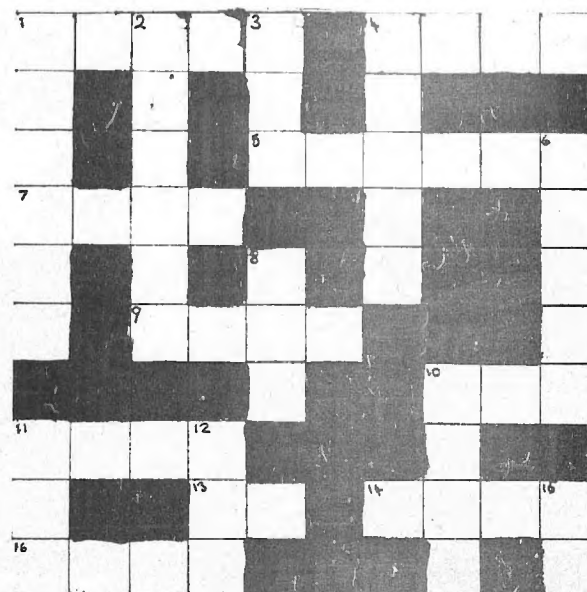
## HPP CROSSWORD

### DOWN

1. Medical Man. (6)
2. Place for education. (6)
3. In (3).
4. What you take for a cold. (5)
5. One of the five senses (5)
6. Past tense of eat. (3)
7. Opposite of uncle. (4)
8. Opposite of cat. (3)
9. 'Le' in English means (3)
10. Sir With Love. (2)

### ACROSS

1. A place you dance (5).
2. A workman's (4)
3. A ball game. (6)
4. You put flowers in this. (4)
5. Not early. (4)
6. Small animal. (3)
7. Rope tangle. (4)
8. Abb. of do not. (4)
9. A garden door. (4)
10. Opposite of she. (2).





# PHOTO STORY

## THE DAY I GOT CAUGHT

1  
This is a photo-story done  
by three boy's.

The characters are:  
Delroy - camera-man  
Roland - star  
Dean - supercrook.

The story is about two boys  
who are on a Easter school  
holiday and are very bored  
and have nowhere to go.  
As Dean was about to pass  
CENTERPRISE he saw Roland  
and as he was thinking  
about going fishing he  
asked Roland if he would  
like to come.



2.  
When Dean asked Roland if  
he wanted to go swimming  
or fishing the reply was  
NO. Dean asked him why  
he had said 'no' and  
Roland's reply was  
'because it would take  
too long to set out the  
things'. So in the end  
we set off into CENTER-  
PRISE.



3.  
When we went into  
CENTERPRISE we had a game  
of chess - Dean won as  
usual. After the game  
Dean was feeling very  
hungry but he had no money.  
So Dean thought to himself:  
if my name is "Supercrook"  
I should be able to nick  
something to eat.

So Dean went up to  
where the fruits were and  
tried to nick a banana.

4.  
Dean was just about to walk  
away when he thought that  
nobody was watching him,  
but a man sneaked up  
behind Dean, and when Dean  
turned around he saw one  
of the workers of Center-  
prise.



5.  
The man then grabbed onto  
Dean's jacket and took him  
to the office and the  
manageress asked him to  
empty his pocket.

6.  
When Dean started to empty  
his pockets, he never  
noticed the banana sticking  
out. Then Dean tried to  
push it back into his  
pocket but the manageress  
saw him.

7.  
The next day Dean was at  
court, and the Judge  
sentenced him to 1  
million years.





## AS NEW RAIL LINK OPENS WE LOOK AT

**BROAD ST THREAT**

Two months after the former Environment Minister Peter Shore gave his long delayed decision on the British Rail proposal to redevelop Liverpool St and Broad St stations, a decision which left the future of Broad St undecided, it is becoming increasingly obvious that those wishing to keep trains running between Dalston Junction and Broad St will have a fight on their hands.

The GLC Labour group is worried enough about the situation to table a motion at the full GLC Council meeting last week asking for a firm commitment to the line which is known as the City Link.

Whilst the Tory leader of the GLC Transport Committee appeared to give this commitment in a statement to the Press, he came to the Council meeting armed with misleading information obviously supplied directly by British Rail in an attempt to play down the importance of the Dalston Junction Broad St Line. The motion itself was broadened by the Tories so as to be almost meaningless.

Those HPP readers with good memories (or a good filing system) will remember an article in the Sept/Oct 1976 edition entitled "The End of the Line for Hackney?". That article explained that

as part of their redevelopment proposals for Liverpool St and Broad St stations - which were to be put to a Public Enquiry starting in November 1976, British Rail were planning to abolish the direct link from Dalston Junction to Broad St, building instead a new curve at Graham Road to divert the North London Line trains into Liverpool St. At the public enquiry both the North London Line Committee and Hackney Public Transport Action Committee voiced strong objections to any cutting of the City Link although at that time Hackney Council did not appear to understand the full impact of the plans, being more

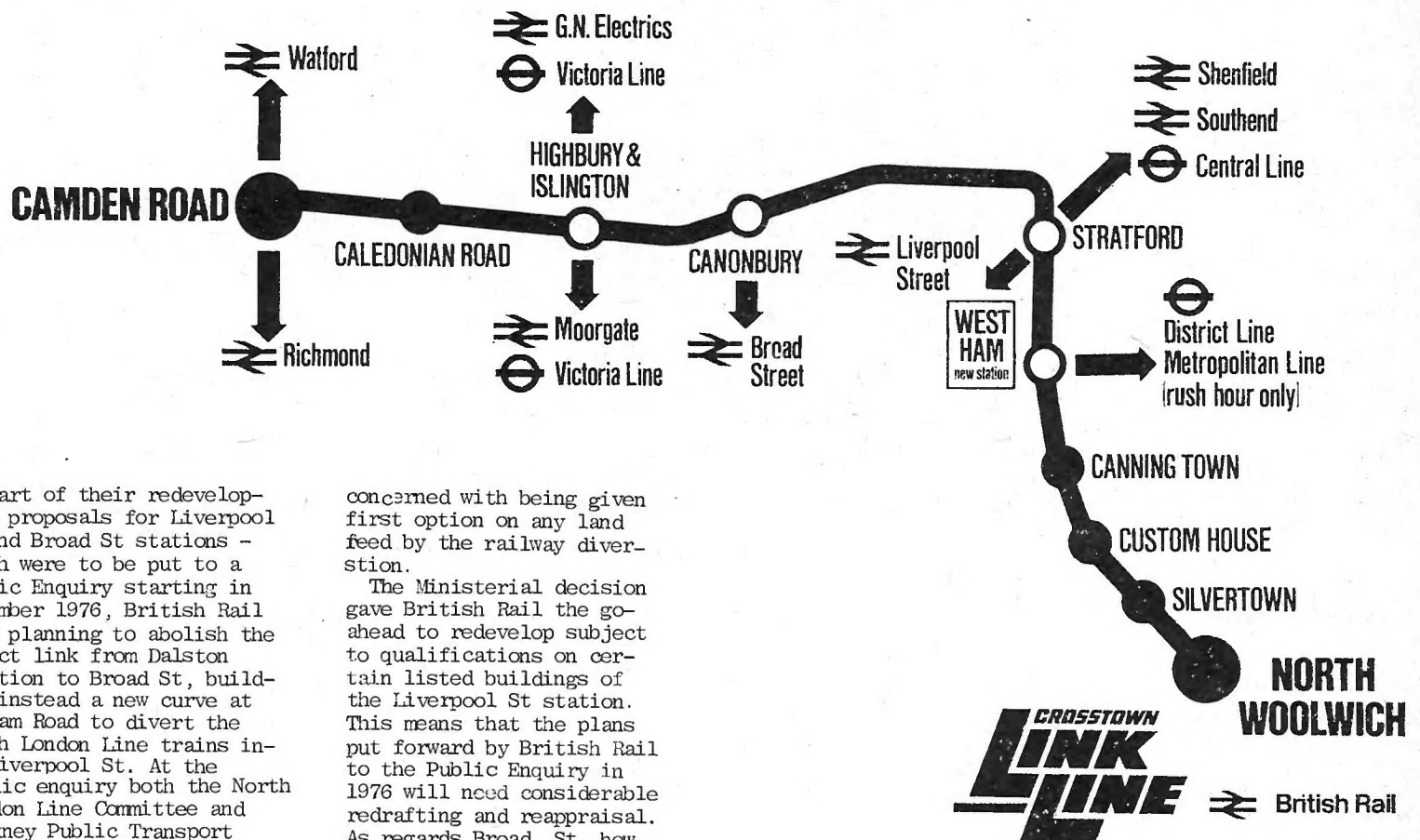
concerned with being given first option on any land feed by the railway diversion.

The Ministerial decision gave British Rail the go-ahead to redevelop subject to qualifications on certain listed buildings of the Liverpool St station. This means that the plans put forward by British Rail to the Public Enquiry in 1976 will need considerable redrafting and reappraisal. As regards Broad St, however, no firm decision was taken by the minister, any closure proposals which are put forward by British Rail being subject to another Public Enquiry.

Thus the opportunity was missed, in spite of considerable local pressure from this area to remove the blight over the Dalston Junction-Broad St rail route. It is interesting that this was in spite of the statement in the Inspector's report that the Broad St passengers would come off worst from British Rail's proposals and that British Rail should consider the incorporation in any new development of a new small high-level "Broad St" station connected to the main concourse by escalators. It must be noted that this recommendation was made when British Rail were at least proposing to divert North London Line trains into Liverpool St. This plan, with a new Graham Road curve, may not ever have been serious, but is now definitely a "dead duck".

**ENTHUSIASM**

For British Rail jumped on the GLC enthusiasm for Docklands to propose new train services, now operating from Camden down to North Woolwich. The existence of these services are now being used as a lever to divert the North London Line and Watford-Broad St trains to Docklands, by electrifying the line east of Dalston. British Rail now claim they cannot afford to operate train services both to Docklands and to Broad St and surprise, surprise, it would be the Broad St section which would be "for the chop". The Department of Transport, however, deny that British Rail have not the resources pointing out the increased level



British Rail's advertising for the new Crosstown Link - but the trains don't stop in Hackney!

of government grant to British Rail and that the situation "that support for the Dalston Junction to Broad St Line must be withdrawn in order that savings may be passed on to support the new North Woolwich to Camden Rd service does not apply". The other British Rail argument that they have not enough carriages to run trains to Docklands and to Broad St - if they electrify down to North Woolwich - is not borne out by records of the coach stocks.

British Rail, faced with a weak GLC, had underestimated the likely opposition to closing Broad St and their recent nonsensical suggestion for running a shuttle service of buses down the route is an attempt to stave off this opposition - with a service run by London Transport. The busway suggestion is an attempt also to obscure the main issues and to send people like Hackney Council officers down time-wasting blind alleys. Not surprisingly, at the public meeting in Dalston on March 6, British Rail's London area passenger manager admitted that he had no real

idea how many people were using Broad St - or the rest of the North London Line for that matter.

It has in any case been pointed out that it is not only existing passengers, but potential passengers that we must think about. How many more people would use the City Link, for example, if they could buy a through ticket onto the Tube or could alight at a Shoreditch Church station or if the line had nearer a Tube service frequency? How many extra people will need to use the line if fuel shortages restrict car owners' and bus mileage in a few years time, - California can be seen as just a warning. Hackney Council officers are now writing a report on the Dalston-Broad St Line and these sort of questions must be considered. British Rail, needless to say, are unlikely to co-operate - they are firmly devoting their "minds" to freeing the Broad St site for offices - and to hell with Hackney people and others from Islington and westwards who use the North London Line to get to the City.

HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

City and Hackney Community Health Council

## International Year of the Child COMPETITION

For 12 - 18 year olds

'A Health Service for the Future' - tell us, in not more than 750 words, what improvements you would like to see in local health services for children and young people. **THREE PRIZES** of £10, £5 and £3 will be awarded for entries which show imaginative, but well considered, and practical ideas.

For 7 - 11 year olds

Write about a visit you have made either to  
your health centre  
doctor or dentist  
hospital  
school doctor

either when you have not been well yourself or when you have been with one of your family who was ill. What did you like or not like? What would have made the visit better for you?

**THREE PRIZES** for the best entries of £5, £3 and £1.

To all competitors

The competition is open to all children living in the City of London and Hackney Borough. Please send your entry with your name, age and address to City & Hackney CHC, 210 Kingsland Road, London E2. Closing date is 23 June 1979. The winning essays will be read and prizes awarded at the CHC public meeting on Child Health Services on 17 July 1979.

**SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Followers of the "Schools Debate" (see letter in this issue, page 2) may have found last month's article by Colin Ravden a little difficult to follow.

This was not due to any fault of the author but occurred because a number of sections were inadvertently positioned wrongly during paste-up.

This resulted in most of the article being in the wrong order. Corrected versions of the article are available, however, and can be obtained from us by sending an s.a.e. to HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Apologies to Colin for our technical deficiencies!



# The Left Future for Hackney

The Tory general election victory is causing a lot of heartsearching in Hackney amongst socialist and activists within the labour movement. The election result confirmed the swing to the right in national politics on a whole series of popular, political issues ranging from law and order to the role of trade unions. This originally left many socialists confused, depressed and looking for a way ahead. In Hackney where Tory policies on immigration, housing, health care, jobs and pay will have particularly harsh effects the need for political clarity and effective struggle against the right is essential if the borough's people are not to be devastated by government policies.

## FIGHTBACK

The beginnings of a political fightback against the Tories are already underway. Hackney Communist Party, for example, have started a series of discussions inside and outside the Communist Party on "The Future of the Left and the Fightback Against the Tories" as well as mobilising the Party's industrial militants and producing leaflets etc around the theme of Hackney Against the Tories. The left in the Labour Party is also actively engaged in a period of debate leading to action to try to avoid past pitfalls.

As part of this process, to help build the strongest possible unity against the Tories and for political change in the interests of Hackney's working people a conference is being considered on the future of the Left in Hackney. This should provide an opportunity for non-aligned socialists and community



activists to discuss issues with members of the Broad Left in the Labour Party, Hackney Communist Party and other left groups. This might lead to better co-operation on matters which affect us all.

## CONFERENCE

The conference will take place in July, and anyone interested is welcome to attend. The date and venue will be given in the July issue of HPP. In that issue we will also print articles which will argue the case for left unity which we hope will provide background material for the conference. The threat of five years of Tory government means that it is vital for the left to provide a practical alternative to the main political problems facing Hackney people.

Articles for next month's issue are welcome from any

individual or group in Hackney. Please keep the length to less than 500 words and send them to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High St., E8, by Friday June 22. Further details of the conference will also be available from us when they are finalised.

## Home for folk

The Homegrown Club at Chats Palace, 44 Brooksby's Walk, E9, has been open for two months now and takes place every Thursday evening from 8-11 pm. With the help of friends and neighbours, the Homegrown has been run on a somewhat experimental level. There are not many venues left in London where aspiring musicians can come along and play on the same stage as pretty advanced performers. This is the main aim of the club.

However, it has now ceased to be an experimental venture and we hope it will progress to a more permanent venue.

The Club has been accepted by the Chats Palace Arts Committee as viable until the end of August, and possibly beyond, with sporadic evenings scattered throughout the pantomime season. We hope to recommence some time in the new year.

The only philosophy the club has is good music. The only publicity thus far has been word of mouth. We need all the help we can get, from any musician or non musician, the club was originally started by musicians who did it for love.

We are glad to announce that guest artists can actually get paid a fee, floor singers are welcome and there is no rigid "folk" tradition on Thursday nights. We've had reggae, folk, acoustic rock and John Barleycorn folk. Anything goes really, as long as the audience doesn't, we don't mind.

For any further information, ring Eddie or John at Chats Palace on Thursday afternoons (tel 986 6714).

# Council forks out

A group of keen gardeners is being formed to take up Hackney Council on its offer of sites - and money - for new allotments.

At present, there are only a handful of allotments in the borough, run by gardening clubs, and waiting lists are long. The Council itself gets two or three letters a month, as well as numerous phone calls, asking for possible plots.

But the borough's Director of Technical Services, Mr G N Coulter, has now agreed to investigate using some of the waste land already owned by the Council. The Department would clear the sites, provide

vide fencing, and put in topsoil. It would then be up to the gardeners to run the plots themselves, although more help may be available for such things as the bulk buying of seeds, fertilisers, etc.

The first allotment is still some way off, and the scheme is being concentrated first in the south-west corner of the borough, particularly in the de Beauvoir and Mapledene areas. But anyone interested in helping to organise the idea, with the carrot of a place to grow their own vegetables at the end of the day, should contact John Fuller on 254 1009.

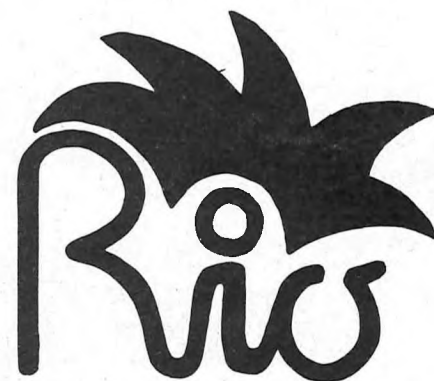
## MADE IT! Leggett Fund tops £100

Due to a last minute rush of donations we are happy to report that we just reached our target of £100 for our Leggett Fund and we have sent cheques for £50 each to Anti-Apartheid and the Mutual Understanding Committee for Hackney. Many thanks to all those readers and supporters who sent donations - lack of space does not allow us to mention them all by name!

We have had to pay this sum in settlement of the threat of a libel suit against

us from Councillor Miles Leggett who objected to certain remarks we make about him in an article published last November.

Now that the threat of this action is lifted from our heads and we no longer have to direct time and energy to fund-raising, we can carry on trying to build Hackney People's Press into the kind of paper we want it to be: an effective voice acting as a focus for community action for the people of Hackney.



### JUNE

Sat 2 (late)	DUEL and CARWASH
Sun 3 (afternoon)	Rough Trade Tour. Live on stage: KLEENEX and RAINCOATS and CABARET VOLTAIRE
Mon 4 (For 6 days)	COMES A HORSEMAN
Sat 9 (late)	EASY RIDER and STEELYARD BLUES
Sun 10 (afternoon)	
Mon 11 (For 6 days)	THE TURNING POINT and JULIA
Sat 16 (late)	Not yet fixed
Mon 18 (For 6 days)	THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY
Sat 23 (late)	GODFATHER II
Sun 24 (afternoon)	Asian films
Mon 25 (for 6 days)	BLUE COLLAR
Sat 30 (late)	CHINATOWN and MARATHON MAN
Sun 31 (afternoon)	

For details of times of programmes, please phone the cinema.

The Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland High Street, London E8.  
254 6677

The Rio is supported by GLAA, ACGB, CRE and LBH.

## PAN AFRICAN ORGANISATION

UHURU PROJECT  
PRESENTS

## THEIR 5th ANNUAL CELEBRATION DANCE

ON SATURDAY 9th JUNE 1979

from 7.30 pm to 1 am.  
at the

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE  
KENNINGSINGTON HIGH STREET LONDON W8

LIVE ON STAGE THE FABULOUS

**LOLA PAGE**

and the

**SERANADERS**

PLUS SIR HENRY HI-FI

TICKETS £2.50 SINGLE

£4 DOUBLE

LICENSED BAR

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FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION TEL: 01-254 0686

SURPRISE GIFTS FOR BEST OUTSTANDING COSTUME OF ANY NATIONALITY.  
PAN AFRICAN RAFFLE 79 WILL TAKE PLACE AND THE RESULT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN WEST AFRICA MAGAZINE, WEST INDIAN WORLD AND AFRO FUN.  
OUR FIRST PRIZE WHICH IS AN AIR RETURN TICKET TO ANY PART OF AFRICA IS SPONSORED BY WEST AFRICA TRAVEL SERVICE.



# information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.  
For the next issue, just send us your information by

FRIDAY 22 JUNE

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

## Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

### HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E8  
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

### TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620  
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in NS.

### HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

### HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

74 Downham Road N1.  
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm

### OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566  
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

### FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.  
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.  
986 2233 (24 hours)  
985 0973 (office hours)  
986 9146 (office hours)

### FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

### HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP

Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

### HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

### HOMERTON GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

### HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

## Women

### HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

### WOMEN'S CENTRE

1 Cazenove Road, N16.  
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

### RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

### HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP

Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

### HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

## Health

### CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.  
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

### HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY

Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E8. Tel. 808 8438.

### THE BIRTH CENTRE

188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.  
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.  
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm, 25p.

### EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP

c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

### STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP

Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N16. 254 3277.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

## Community Centres

### CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
Bookshop and office hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.  
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.  
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.

### FACILITIES:

Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.

### ADVICE CENTRE:

Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.

### READING CENTRE:

For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.

### PUBLISHING PROJECT:

Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.

### WALLY FOSTER CENTRE

Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.  
Community Centre with many activities:  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.  
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES: Every Monday at 7pm.  
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 8-18 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.  
See also ADVICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

### THE FACTORY

107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.  
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.  
Contact them for further details.

### THE FAMILY CENTRE

50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.  
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).  
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Contact them for further information.  
Also see ADVICE and Neighbourhood English Classes and Gingerbread under COMMUNITY GROUPS listings on this page.

### HOXTON HALL

128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.

Many events take place in the theatre each month—see the EVENTS AND MEETINGS section. Also see ADVICE listing.

### LATIN AMERICA CENTRE

17 Hoxton Square, N1. Tel. 739 2910.  
Social and cultural centre for Latin Americans and British people interested in Latin America.

## Ecology

### HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

### HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP

Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power. Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact Simon 249 3008.

### RECYCLEO PAPER

High quality recycled papers (duplicating, printing, writing or card), personalised stationery and silk screen printing available from Regenes, 32 Warwick Road, N16. Tel. 249 8367.

## Meditation

### PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS IN HACKNEY

Simple, natural, effortless transcendental meditation technique realizes full creative potential. Introductory talks: 8pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at S1 Downs Park Road, E8. Tel. 254 6280.

### ANANOA MARGA

For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm. at 1 Cazenove Road, N16. Everyone welcome.

## Workshops

### THE WORKSHOP

81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.  
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

### COMET WORKSHOP

Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.  
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.

## Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:-

### CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

### HOXTON HALL

128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

### KINGSMEAD

Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.  
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

### SNAGS

102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm; (802 7949).

### ALLEN ROAD

12 Allen Road, N16.  
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

### HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.  
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).  
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

### CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.  
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

### HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

245 Mare St, E8.  
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.  
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

### THE FAMILY CENTRE

50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

### HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE

302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.  
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

### HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU

Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

### HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

S Stamford Hill, N16.  
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.  
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

### RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.  
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.  
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see LABOUR PARTY under POLITICAL GROUPS listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?

### EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

## Education

### ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

### ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES

For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.

June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.

Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.

Cal Weatherald, HIGHBURY MANOR AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.  
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

### HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME

Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16 on Thursday mornings.

## Political Groups

### HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON

Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at S Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP, also runs advice service every other Sunday at 11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.  
Details from S Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.

### HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:

for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o S Stamford Hill, N16.  
HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Blotchley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays, Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays, Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.

### HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:

for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.  
HACKNEY CENTRAL Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.  
HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

### HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Meets weekly. All young people welcome.  
HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.

### HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP

Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

### HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

### LONDON WORKERS GROUP

For independent militants, working anarchists, and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

### ANARCHY COLLECTIVE

Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

### LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP

c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

### ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION

Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

### SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING

Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China.

### HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM

All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

### SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN HACKNEY GROUP

Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

### HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT

Campaigns on third world issues, especially against the Arms Trade to these countries.

### NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

Hackney Branch meets on a Tuesday night at Centerprise, 8pm. Information from NCP, 395 Walworth Road, SE17 2AW.

### Hackney Socialist Challenge

Supporters Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Britannia, Mare St.  
Further details from Hackney SC, c/o PO Box 50, London N1. or from Martin, 359 8180 (day).

## Men

### DALSTON MEN'S GROUP

Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

### EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP

Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

### EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE

19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

We apologise for the inaccuracies on this page, of which we know there are many. We are trying to reorganise our information page, and will print a revised version in next month's issue. If you have any corrections or additions, then please send them to us as soon as possible.

## Children

### HACKNEY UNDER FIVES

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm. In Centerprise.

### HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Chery' an McFetridge or Mo Ross.

### CHILL ARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE

112b Forest Road E8.  
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

### TOY LIBRARY

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16. A new toy library for all children under 5. Play facilities tea. Every Tuesday 2-3.30pm. Contact Sue Corlett 806 1968.

## Transport

### HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE

Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

### HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP

Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N16. 254 4559

## Gays

### EAST LONDON FAGGOTS

Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

### GAY SWITCHBOARD

Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

### EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)



# FESTIVALS 79

The community festival season is almost on us once again. All over Hackney a record number of people are planning a record number of festivals. Here are some advance details of four of these, just so that you can make a note in your diary. (It's a pity that the Stoke Newington and Hackney Marsh festivals didn't consult each other's diaries - they might have avoided the clash that they have if they had done so!). HPP will be at some - if not all - of these events. Look out for our stall, with our exciting new side-show (if we think of one in time), a mini-exhibition about the paper and, of course, our famous badge-making machine!

## De Beauvoir 30 June

De Beauvoir Community Association Festival.

Every patch of green on the de Beauvoir Estate is being used on 30 June. The attractions include drum majorettes, steel band, kung-fu display, morris dancing, fancy dress competition, Turkish Cypriot dancing and a mock battle - Saxons v. Normans. Plus sideshows, pearly kings and queens.

All starts at 1pm with a procession.

For further details contact Heather Wilmer at the Rose Lipman Library. 249 3669.

## Hackney Marsh 14/15 July

Hackney Marsh Fun Festival

The biggest of Hackney's festivals, the theme this year is "All Abroad" so that Hackney's residents can go this summer to any country they choose - and all for no more than the cost of a bus fare to Homerton! Once again the festival is to be held over two days on Daubeny Fields, and plenty of live entertainment, sideshows, live music and fun is guaranteed for all.

For further details contact Hackney Marsh Fun Festival c/o Chats Palace. 986 6714.

## Stoke Newington 14 July

Stoke Newington Community Festival.

This is the second festival to be organised on Stoke Newington Common and will start with a parade from Stoke Newington Town Hall at 1pm. This will go via Albion Road, Newington Green and Matthias Road to the common, arriving at 2pm. During the afternoon there will be dancing and drama from local groups. There will be plenty of space for sideshows on the Common during the afternoon. In the evening there will be performances of various types of live music ending about 9pm.

For further details contact Harriet Tod or Jacky Atkinson on 254 3294 (daytime) or Helen Ragnal on 802 3426.

## Shoreditch 21/22 July

Shoreditch Festival

This is to be run at Shoreditch Park, New North Road, N1 over two days and will comprise a Carnival Procession, crazy Games, Open Air Boxing, Karate and Judo, gymnastics display, 5-a-side football and stalls and sideshows. The theme is "A little of what you fancy does you good!" This is a new festival and local people are urgently needed to help.

For further details contact Jim Ives on 729 3361 or 249 3394.

# COUNCIL DUCKS NAZI QUESTION

continued from p.1.

Committee "in due course".

A senior planning department official told HPP that he could not say when this application would be considered. He also indicated that if the Front complied with the enforcement orders, then the Council would merely inspect the premises to see whether or not they had done so.

The Council could serve what is known as a "stop order", we were told by a

planning lawyer. This is, in effect, an injunction which requires the Front to stop immediately whatever the Council objects to. This would almost certainly end up in a court case and would mean, if the Council lost the case, which they are obviously frightened of, that they might have to pay substantial damages to the National Front. Such a move would not be very popular with ratepayers, the Council argument goes, who might quite rightly object to paying any legal damages to the Front out of public money.

### APPEAL

As the matter now stands, the Front will probably appeal against the enforcement orders that have now been served. If they do this, they can go on using the building for whatever they like until the outcome of this appeal, which would be decided by Environment Minister Michael Heseltine. Then there could be a court case challenging his decision - a process which might easily total more than two years.

The feeling that the Council is dragging its feet in dealing with the Excalibur House problem is widespread

amongst the left and Labour movement in Hackney and elsewhere. A trade union conference, arranged by Hackney and Tower Hamlets Trade Councils and chaired by SOGAT General Secretary Bill Keys, in March stressed the need to "inject the social and moral issues into the rather cosy planning discussions that have taken place so far."

Some plans for direct trade union action against the building were discussed, but it was generally felt that there needed to be a definite

and positive atmosphere against the Front to encourage the trade unionists who would inevitably end up leading the fight.

It looks as though that fight is a long way off, however, as Hackney Council's fine words of last autumn wither away into caution. The local police however recognise that there is a lot of popular feeling against the Front for they invoked the Public Order Act at the end of April to stop a march passing down

Great Eastern Street. If the Council recognised this, then they might take a firm political decision. John Kotz - who is regarded as a left-winger outside the borough - told the press bench on his way out of the Planning Committee meeting "I told you that we would get rid of them."

If he believes that, then he is obviously deluding himself - and the people of Hackney.

## HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish this paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor, no shareholders, no commercial advertising and no party political backing.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. No one is paid by the paper and all decisions are made collectively.

We hold meetings every Monday (except the last one in each month) at 8pm in Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. You can come along to one of these meetings and volunteer to help us produce, write or sell the next issue - or simply tell us what you think of the paper.

If you can't come one Monday

then write to us c/o Centreprise or ring 249 0311 any evening or weekend.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and other outlets throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading the paper and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

